

PRESS RELEASE

Special
Olympics
Connecticut



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run® Rally Coming to West Hartford, June 6th

May 10, 2019 -- The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics Connecticut will be coming to Blue Black Square in West Hartford (65 Memorial Road) on Thursday, June 6th at 5 p.m. Local officers and Special Olympics athletes will arrive, carrying the Torch with its “Flame of Home”, as part of a three-day annual Run throughout the state to raise awareness of Special Olympics’ year-round sports, health and fitness programs and inspire inclusion and acceptance for people of all abilities. An end-of-day Rally will take place in the center of Blue Black Square that will feature music and special guests including Renee DiNino from iHeart Radio Connecticut. Officers from the West Hartford, Hartford and Farmington Police Departments, Connecticut State Police and other local law enforcement agencies and Special Olympics Connecticut athletes from the area will come together for the Rally and the public is also encouraged to attend this free event.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics Connecticut is a year-round effort carried out by officers who support local athletes by organizing fundraisers, raising awareness about Special Olympics in their communities and serving as volunteers at events. Active and retired officers representing municipal departments, state police and correction facilities, military police and federal employees and college and university public safety officers get involved.

In addition, more than 1,500 officers participate in an annual, three-day Torch Run which takes place the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday leading up to the Special Olympics Connecticut Summer Games. These officers carry the Special Olympics Torch, with its *Flame of Hope*, more than 530 miles, passing it from town to town.

Officers who participate in the Final Leg of the Torch Run form a procession and bring the Torch onto the field where the Summer Games Opening Ceremonies are held. The *Flame* is used to light a large cauldron, signifying the vitality and spirit Special Olympics athletes possess – and the start of Summer Games weekend!

This year’s Torch Run will take place on Wednesday, June 5th, Thursday, June 6th and Friday, June 7th. The start and end locations for the Torch Run Legs are:

Wednesday, June 6th

Leg 1 – Old Lyme to Ledyard

Leg 2 – Putnam to Ledyard

Thursday, June 7th

Leg 3 – North Branford to Wethersfield

Leg 4 – Willimantic to Bloomfield

Leg 4a – Enfield to Glastonbury

Leg 5 Plymouth to West Hartford

Leg 6 – Naugatuck to West Hartford

Friday, June 8th

Leg 7 – Newington to New Haven

Leg 8 – Chester to New Haven

Leg 9 – New Milford to Bethany

Leg 9a – Ridgefield and Wilton

Leg 9b – Monroe to New Haven

Leg 10 – Greenwich to New Haven

To view the routes and schedules for each Leg and see when the Torch Run will be passing through your town, visit soct.org.

Sponsors of the Law Enforcement Torch Run include Dream Ride, Whelen Engineering, WWE and The Bearingstar Insurance Charitable Fund – Platinum Sponsors and Adams Hometown Markets / IGA Hometown Supermarkets and Papa's Dodge – Gold Sponsors.

About Special Olympics Connecticut

Special Olympics Connecticut provides year-round sports training and competitions for over 12,000 athletes of all ages with intellectual disabilities and Unified Sports® partners - their teammates without disabilities.

Through the joy of sport, the Special Olympics movement transforms lives and communities throughout the state and in 172 countries around the world by promoting good health and fitness and inspiring inclusion and respect for all people, on and off the playing field. (www.soct.org)

Partner Sponsors: Adams Hometown Markets/IGA Hometown Supermarkets, Dream Ride, ESPN, Eversource Energy, The Golisano Foundation, Law Enforcement Torch Run, NBC Connecticut, TD Bank, United Technologies and WWE.

Year-Round Suppliers: Adams Hometown Markets/IGA Hometown Supermarkets, Campus Customs, The Coca-Cola Company, Connecticut Portable Storage/PODS, Crystal Rock Water and Coffee Company, Marcus Communications, State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Community Service and WORX.

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